

REMARKS

The Office Action dated August 21, 2003 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the specification and claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Upon entry of this Response, claims 1-43 will be pending in the present application. Claims 1, 6, 20-22, 26-28, and 34-43 are independent claims. Claims 22, 27, 35-36, and 39-41 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the claimed invention. However, claims 22, 27, 35-36, and 39-41 have been amended exclusively for the purpose of clarity and have not been amended in view of any prior art. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-43 are respectfully submitted for consideration.

Rejection of claims 22, 27-28, 36, and 39-41 Under 35 U.S.C. §112:

Claims 22, 27-28, 36, and 39-41 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for allegedly containing insufficient antecedent basis for some of the subject matter recited therein. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants thank Examiners Ton and Abelson for participating in a personal interview with Applicants' representative, Hermes M. Soyez, on October 15, 2003. Applicant point out that all of the claim amendments discussed and agreed upon during the personal interview are included in this Response.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above amended claims 22, 27, 36, and 39-41 contain sufficient antecedent basis for all of the subject matter recited therein, therefore directly address the Examiner's comments, and renders the rejection of claims 22, 27, 36, and 39-41 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, moot. With respect to claim 28, however, Applicants point out that antecedent basis for "said data or transfer ready frames", as recited on line 28, may be found on line 26, wherein "data and transfer ready frames" is recited. Hence, Applicants respectfully submit that no amendment to claim 28 is necessary.

At least in view of the above amendment and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 22, 27, 28, 36, and 39-41 are now in condition for allowance. Hence, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 22, 27, 28, 36, and 39-41 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is earnestly solicited.

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the remarks contained in the outstanding Office Action have been addressed and that the rejection contained therein has been overcome. Hence, Applicants further submit that the subject matter recited in claims 1-43 is allowable. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that all claims currently pending in the present application be allowed, and that this application be passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicants' undersigned representative at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,

Hermes M. Soyez, Ph.D.
Registration No. 45,852

Customer No. 32294
SQUIRE, SANDERS & DEMPSEY LLP
14TH Floor
8000 Towers Crescent Drive
Tysons Corner, Virginia 22182-2700
Telephone: 703-720-7800
Fax: 703-720-7802

HMS:lls